

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Currently Amended) A distributed simulation system comprising:  
  
a first node configured to participate in a simulation of a system under test,  
wherein the first node is configured to simulate a first component of the  
system under test; and  
  
a second node configured to transmit a hot pull command designating the first  
node;  
  
wherein, responsive to the hot pull command, the first node ceases participation in  
the simulation to simulate a removal of the first component from the  
system under test.
2. (Currently Amended) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 further  
comprising a third node, ~~wherein the first node comprises a first simulation node~~  
~~configured to simulate a first component of a system under test in the simulation, and~~  
~~wherein the third node comprises a second simulation node~~ configured to simulate a  
second component coupled to the first component in the system under test.
3. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 wherein the first  
node is configured to cease participating in the simulation by responding to any  
subsequent communications received by the first node with a no-operation command.
4. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 wherein the first  
node is configured to cease participating in the simulation by terminating execution and  
freeing simulation resources assigned to the first node.
5. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a

hub coupled to the first node and the second node, wherein the hub is configured to cease forwarding communications from the first node responsive to the hot pull command from the second node.

6. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a hub coupled to the first node and the second node, wherein the hub is configured to terminate execution in the first node and free simulation resources assigned to the first node responsive to the hot pull command.

7. (Currently Amended) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 ~~wherein the first node comprises~~ further comprising a control node configured to cease participation in the simulation responsive to a second hot pull command designating the control node.

8. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 1 further comprising a third node, wherein the second node is configured to transmit a hot plug command designating the third node, and wherein the third node is configured to begin participating in the simulation responsive to the hot plug command.

9. (Currently Amended) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 8 wherein the first node is configured to simulate a first model of ~~a first~~ the first component of the system under test, and wherein the third node is configured to simulate a second model of the first component.

10. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 9 wherein the first model simulates correct operation of the first component and the second model simulates faulty operation of the first component.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a hot pull command designating a first node in a distributed simulation

system, the first node configured to participate in a simulation and to simulate a first component of a system under test in the simulation; and

ceasing participation of the first node in the simulation responsive to the hot pull command to simulate a removal of the first component from the system under test.

12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the ceasing participation comprises responding to any subsequent communications received by the first node with a no-operation command.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the ceasing participation comprises:

terminating execution in the first node; and

freeing simulation resources assigned to the first node.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a hub coupled to the first node, wherein the ceasing participation comprises the hub ceasing forwarding communications from the first node responsive to the hot pull command.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a hub coupled to the first node, the ceasing participation comprises:

the hub terminating execution in the first node responsive to the hot pull command; and

the hub freeing simulation resources assigned to the first node responsive to the

hot pull command.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 15 further comprising:

the hub pausing the simulation prior to terminating execution in the first node;  
and

the hub resuming the simulation subsequent to the terminating execution and the  
freeing simulation resources.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a second node, the method further comprising:

transmitting a hot plug command designating the second node; and

the second node beginning participation in the simulation responsive to the hot  
plug command.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 17 wherein the first node is configured to simulate a first model of ~~a first~~ the first component of the system under test, and wherein the third node is configured to simulate a second model of the first component.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the first model simulates correct operation of the first component and the second model simulates faulty operation of the first component.

20. (Currently Amended) One or more ~~earlier~~ computer readable media comprising:

first instructions which, when executed, cease participation ~~of~~ in a simulation by a  
first node ~~in a simulation~~ in a distributed simulation system responsive to

receiving a hot pull command, the first node simulating a first component of a system under test, and the first node ceasing participation in the simulation simulates removal of the first component from the system under test.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 further comprising:

second instructions which, when executed, transmit the hot pull command designating the first node.

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 wherein the first instructions, when executed, include responding to any subsequent communications received by the first node with a no-operation command.

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 wherein the first instructions, when executed,

~~terminate cause simulation execution to terminate~~ terminate in the first node; and

free simulation resources assigned to the first node.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a hub coupled to the first node, and wherein the first instructions, when executed in the hub, cease participation by ceasing forwarding communications from the first node in the hub responsive to the hot pull command.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a hub coupled to the first node, and wherein the first instructions, when executed, cease participation by:

causing the hub to terminate execution in the first node responsive to the hot pull command; and

causing the hub to free simulation resources assigned to the first node responsive to the hot pull command.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~earlier~~ computer readable media as recited in claim 20 wherein the distributed simulation system further comprises a second node, the carrier media further comprising third instructions which, when executed,

transmit a hot plug command designating the second node; and

cause the second node to begin participation in the simulation responsive to the hot plug command.

27. (Currently Amended) A distributed simulation system comprising:

a first node configured to participate in a simulation of a system under test, the first node configured to simulate a first component of the system under test; and

a second node configured to transmit a hot plug command designating the first node;

wherein the first node does not participate in the simulation prior to the hot plug command, and wherein the first node begins participation in the simulation responsive to the hot plug command to simulate insertion of the first component in the system under test.

28. (Currently Amended) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 27 further

~~comprising a third node, wherein the first node comprises a first simulation node configured to simulate a first component of a system under test in the simulation, and wherein the third node comprises a second simulation node configured to simulate a second component coupled to the first component in the system under test.~~

29. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first node not participating in the simulation includes responding to any subsequent communications received by the first node with a no-operation command.

30. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first node not participating in the simulation includes not executing in the first node and not assigning simulation resources to the first node prior to the hot plug command.

31. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first node is configured to begin participating in the simulation by responding to at least one communication with a communication other than a no-operation command.

32. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 27 wherein the first node beginning participation in the simulation includes assigning simulation resources to the first node.

33. (Original) The distributed simulation system as recited in claim 32 wherein the first node beginning participation in the simulation further includes the first node coupling into the distributed simulation system.

34. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a hot plug command designating ~~the first~~ a first node, the first node configured to participate in a simulation and to simulate a first component of a system under test in the simulation; and

the first node beginning participation in the simulation responsive to the hot plug command to simulate insertion of the first component into the system under test;

wherein the first node does not participate in the simulation prior to the hot plug command.

35. (Original) The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the first node not participating in the simulation includes responding to any subsequent communications received by the first node with a no-operation command.

36. (Original) The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the first node not participating in the simulation includes not executing in the first node and not assigning simulation resources to the first node prior to the hot plug command.

37. (Original) The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the first node beginning participation in the simulation comprises responding to at least one communication with a communication other than a no-operation command.

38. (Original) The method as recited in claim 34 wherein the first node beginning participation in the simulation includes assigning simulation resources to the first node.

39. (Original) The method as recited in claim 38 wherein the first node beginning participation in the simulation further includes the first node coupling into the distributed simulation system.